

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.       An information handling system comprising:  
 2           a printed circuit board operable to support and interface information  
 3                     processing components;  
 4           plural information processing components, the information processing  
 5                     components disposed on the printed circuit board and at least one  
 6                     information processing component disposed distal the printed circuit  
 7                     board;  
 8           a cable extending from the distal information processing component and  
 9                     ending at a cable signal connector, the cable and signal connector  
 10                    operable to communicate information with the distal processing  
 11                    component;  
 12           a board signal connector mounted on the printed circuit board and coupled  
 13                    with the cable signal connector to communicate signals between the  
 14                    printed circuit board and the distal processing component; and  
 15           a protective housing coupled to the printed circuit board proximate to and  
 16                    separate from the board signal connector, the protective housing  
 17                    having an opening aligned to allow coupling of the cable and board  
 18                    signal connector, the opening having walls disposed proximate the  
 19                    signal connectors to absorb force applied at the signal connectors.

1           2.       The information handling system of Claim 1 further comprising a  
 2           second board signal connector mounted on the circuit board proximate the first board  
 3           signal connector and wherein the protective housing further has a second opening  
 4           aligned to allow coupling of a second cable signal connector to the second board  
 5           signal connector, the second opening having walls disposed proximate the cable  
 6           signal connector to absorb force applied at the second cable signal connector.

1           3.       The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the board signal  
 2           connector comprises a Serial ATA connector.

1           4.     The information handling system of Claim 3 wherein the Serial ATA  
2 connector is coupled to the printed circuit board by solder electrical connections.

1           5.     The information handling system of Claim 3 wherein the Serial ATA  
2 connector is coupled to the printed circuit board by board locks.

1           6.     The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the protective  
2 housing couples to the printed circuit board with parallel slots formed in the  
3 protective housing, the parallel slots accepting insertion of the printed circuit board.

1           7.     The information handling system of Claim 6 further comprising a snap  
2 lock extending from the protective and aligned to engage the board connector after  
3 insertion of the printed circuit board into the parallel slots.

1           8.     A method for securing a signal connector to a printed circuit board, the  
2 method comprising:  
3           mounting the signal connector to the printed circuit board so that a mating  
4           connector inserts into the signal connector substantially at a right angle  
5           to the printed circuit board;  
6           aligning a protective housing with the signal connector so that the signal  
7           connector inserts through an opening of the protective housing;  
8           coupling the protective housing to the printed circuit board; and  
9           absorbing force applied at the signal connector with the protective housing.

1           9.     The method of Claim 8 wherein mounting the signal connector is  
2 soldering electrical connections of the signal connector to the printed circuit board.

1           10.    The method of Claim 8 wherein mounting the signal connector further  
2 comprises mounting the signal connector to the printed circuit board with board locks.

1           11.    The method of Claim 10 wherein the signal connector comprises a  
2 Serial ATA signal connector having a mating tongue extending parallel to the printed

3 circuit board, the protective housing absorbing forces applied to the mating tongue  
4 perpendicular to the printed circuit board.

1 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein coupling the protective housing to the  
2 printed circuit board further comprises:  
3 inserting the printed circuit board into slots of the protective housing so that  
4 force applied to the protective housing is absorbed at the printed circuit  
5 board; and  
6 locking the protective housing to the signal connector.

1 13. The method of Claim 8 further comprising:  
2 inserting a mating connector into the signal connector; and  
3 supporting the mating connector outer surface with the inner surface of the  
4 protective housing opening.

1 14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the signal connector comprises a  
2 Serial ATA signal connector having a mating tongue that inserts into a mating  
3 connector, the protective housing absorbing force applied by the mating connector to  
4 the signal connector..

1 15. A system for protecting a Serial ATA connector having a mounting  
2 tongue and a right-angle mount to a printed circuit board, the system comprising:  
3 a Serial ATA connector adapted to right-angle mount to a printed circuit  
4 board; and  
5 a housing having openings on opposing sides, the openings sized to accept the  
6 Serial ATA connector from one side and a Serial ATA mated cable  
7 connector from the opposing side, the openings having an inner surface  
8 proximate the mated cable connector that restricts movement of the  
9 mated cable connector relative to the mounting tongue.

1 16. The system of Claim 15 wherein the housing further comprises first  
2 and second adjacent sets of opposing openings, each set of opposing openings sized to

3 accept a Serial ATA connector from one side and a Serial ATA mated cable connector  
4 from the opposing side.

1 17. The system of Claim 15 wherein the Serial ATA connector is mounted  
2 to the printed circuit board with soldered electrical attachments, the housing further  
3 comprising opposing key slots aligned to engage the printed circuit board to absorb  
4 force applied to the soldered electrical attachments.

1 18. The system of Claim 15 wherein the Serial ATA connector mounted to  
2 the printed circuit board with board locks.

1 19. The system of Claim 15 further comprising a snap lock integrated with  
2 the housing and operable to engage the Serial ATA connector to restrict movement of  
3 the housing relative to the Serial ATA connector.

1 20. The system of Claim 19 further comprising a mated cable connector  
2 operable to insert in the Serial ATA connector to communicate information from the  
3 printed circuit board to a hard disk drive.